Esperon appointment under fire

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE APPOINTMENT OF NEWLY retired Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. as presidential adviser on the peace process has led some senators to wonder if the Arroyo administration is out to sabotage the negotiations with communist insurgents and Moro separatists.

Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Ma. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal said Esperon's reputation as a "hawk" did not make him an ideal negotiator, pointing out that his term as

ESPERON, A19

SPORTS / A28
Celtics outlast Cavs, reach East finals

ACROSS / A16
Typhoon 'Cosme' death toll climbs to 15

ACROSS / A18
NPA rebels storm Davao jail, seize 11 firearms

NEWS / A2
Aboitiz family member found dead in Cebu

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, May 20, 2008 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 165 ₱18 website: www.inquirer.net

Cardinal Rosales says gay priests OK but …

THE MANILA ARCHbishop yesterday said that having homosexual Catholic priests wouldn't be "too bad" as long as they didn't "act out" their "tendencies."

CARDINAL, A19



Another Laguna massacre: 8 shot dead



ELIAS Pisa holds up a picture of his granddaughter Erika Pili, 7, who is fighting for her life at a Calamba City hospital. Five members of the Pili family died in the Sunday midnight attack on their home.

By Marlon Ramos and Nikko Dizon, in Manila, and Mira Catherine Calleja, *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

CALAMBA CITY—IN WHAT COULD BE the country's most murderous week in years, a lone gunman shot dead eight villagers while they were apparently asleep in their houses—three days after robbers massacred 10 people in a bank in a nearby town.

Five of those killed in the 45-minute shooting spree in the hilly barangay of Hornalan in Calamba were children—two of whom were still locked in an embrace when police found the bodies.

The five children aged 4 to 9 were shot along with their parents. The murders occurred between 11 p.m. Sunday and 12:15 a.m. Monday, police said.

To a neighbor who had rushed out of his house on hearing the gunshots, the killer looked like a frightening apparition.

"The gunman came out of the dark all of a sudden, like a ghost (parang multo) wielding an Armalite," Jaime Almarilla told the Inquirer.

Based on the description provided by a witness, police identified the alleged assailant as Bernabe "Abe" Pieza, 24, said to be the caretaker of a farm owned by a retired policeman and a native of Kidapawan City in North Cotabato.

The alleged gunman, who purportedly bore a grudge against some of his victims, escaped.

Six other people were wounded in the midnight attack.

Police said they recovered 36 empty

ANOTHER, A4



EVEN this cow was not spared by the gunman who shot it in the neck.

Fare increases deferred

Transport sector 'confused' with about-face of gov't

By Riza T. Olchondra

INVOKING THE PUBLIC interest, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza yesterday put off the implementation of fare increases for jeepneys and buses—a surprise government turnaround that provoked threats of a strike from militant drivers.

The provisional fare increases for jeepneys and buses would have taken effect tomorrow.

But a day after the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) announced the higher fares, Mendoza ordered the agency to defer the increases "pending review of other government support mechanisms."

In a statement, Mendoza said that while he understood the plight of transport operators and drivers, "we have also to consider the impact of a fare increase on the commuters and the public in general."

Government support mechanisms for the road transport

FARE, A4

Meralco chair won't be meeting with GMA

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Rommel W. Domingo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo and the Lopezes are not about to bury the hatchet in the white sands of Panglao Island—not today anyway.

"I'm not included in that meeting tomorrow," Manuel M. Lopez, chair of Manila Electric Co., told reporters yesterday. "First of all, I'm not invited."

Ms Arroyo will preside over a rare Cabinet meeting in Bohol today that will discuss high electricity rates along with soaring food prices.

Although he will not be in Panglao, Lopez said that Meralco would be represented there by its president, Jesus Francisco, board director Christian Monsod and former Supreme Court Justice Jose Vitug.

The Meralco executive will serve as resource persons in the discussions on power rates, according to Malacañang and

MERALCO, A4



KC IN MARAWI
Television actress KC Concepcion, UN World Food Program national ambassador against hunger, adjusts her "kumbol," a Muslim woman's veil, during her visit Monday to the Lilod Rupa Elementary School in Marawi City for UNWFP's "End Hunger: Walk the World" campaign. Concepcion's trip to Lanao del Sur aims to raise awareness about the problem of child hunger and to raise funds for a school feeding program.



CAPTAIN MABALO is carried to the dunking pool for "baptism."

This 1999 PMA grad is now an instructor pilot

By Tarra Quismundo

AFTER EACH SUCCESSFUL TOUCHdown, she would pat Huey on its side, kiss it on the nose, and whisper her thanks for another smooth flight.

Giving the UH-1H chopper a buss has become a ritual for Capt. Jeannette Mabalo, the first Philippine Air Force (PAF) female instructor and test pilot of the Cebu-based 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing (THW), the military unit that operates the Hueys.

"When I was still a newcomer, I would see fellow pilots pat or talk to the Huey after each flight. So I sort of took on the same habit," Mabalo says. She would part with the words, "Be good."

THIS 1999, A7

China holds 3-minute silence



A SEARCH dog and its handler in the South Korean search and rescue team look for survivors at a collapsed chemical factory in Yinghua town.

WENCHUAN, CHINA—CHINA stood still and sirens wailed on Monday to mourn tens of thousands of earthquake victims in the country's deadliest natural disaster in a generation.

Construction workers, shopkeepers and bureaucrats across the bustling nation of 1.3 billion people paused for three minutes at 2:28 p.m. (0628 GMT)—exactly one week after the 7.9-magnitude quake hit central China. Air raid sirens and the horns of cars and buses sounded in memory of the at least 50,000 dead.

Rescuers also briefly halted work in the disaster zone, where the hunt for survivors turned grim despite remarkable survival tales among thousands who remain buried in the rubble.

CHINA, A19

A story of love in the ruins

SHIFANG, CHINA—THE TALE of survival of Wang Zhijun and his wife, Li Wenzhi, is also one of rekindled love, of two people who might have died had they been trapped alone.

Like millions of Chinese, the life the couple knew was completely eradicated at 2:28 p.m. on May 12 when the 7.9-magnitude earthquake sent waves of

A STORY, A19

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2: 18 15

FOUR DIGIT: 9 0 1 4

SUERTRES: 6 1 6 7 2 7 / 7 5 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 9 15 20 27 38 42 — P33,712,219.80

Aboitiz family member found dead

Victim was alone in room, had gunshot wound to the head

CEBU CITY—A MEMBER OF A PROMINENT FAMily here, Luis Alfonso Y. Aboitiz, was found dead Saturday night with a gunshot wound in the head, on the bed in the guest room of his parents' home at Maria Luisa Estate Park, Banilad, in this city.

[illegible]

'Ping' positioning self for 2010?

[illegible]

Senators worth a collective P2B

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

Decliners

Unchanged

The poorest

Food-poor families up by 1M

Ad-driven cell phone service coming

Corrections



Fare increases deferred by DOTC

First time

Strike in June

Grumbling public

Millions into poverty

Widescale protest

Another Laguna massacre: 8 villagers shot dead

Shoot to kill

What is happening?

Case solved

Because he was ridiculed



CALAMBA City policemen scale a fence in hot pursuit of Alan Fiesta, the alleged gunman in the mass killings.

God's protection

Calabarzon group

Security meeting

Meralco chair won't be meeting with GMA

GMA probably misinformed

Little share of retail cost

'Flogging Meralco to death'

Plan to split utility


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KINURYENTE NG NAPOCOR si PANGULONG GLORIA ARROYO!

BIRO MO – SINABI NILA KAY PGMA NA WALANG ELECTRIC UTILITY ANG NAGRE-RECOVER NG **SYSTEMS LOSS!**

AT SABI PA NILA NA NAPAKATAAS NG **9.5% SYSTEMS LOSS** NG MERALCO!

Sa katunayan, eto po ang **SYSTEMS LOSS** ng **FIRST WORLD** countries.

SPAIN	10.6%
CANADA	9.9%
IRELAND	9.9%
GREECE	9.5%
ENGLAND	9.4%
AUSTRALIA	9.1%
FRANCE	7.8%
U.S.A.	7.1%

Source: OFGEM (Office of the Gas and Electric Market) REPORT 2003, UK

HOY, NAPOCOR! KINURYENTE NINYO NA NG NAPAKATAGAL ANG TAUMBAYAN SA OVERPRICED IPPs NINYO!!!

TAMA NA ANG PANGUNGURYENTE!

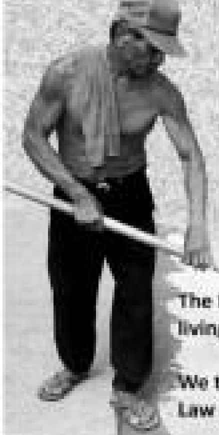
This 1999 PMA graduate is now an instructor pilot

Ad leads to PMA

Bigger responsibility

Back-to-back history

Some advantages



FARMERS DESERVE REAL CHANGE

REAL SOCIAL JUSTICE, NOT EMPTY PROMISES

The Liberal Party stands beside the Filipino farmer in the struggle for a decent living, greater productivity, and stronger global competitiveness.

We thereby support the extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) for five more years, subject to the following reforms:

1. LAND MUST BE MADE PRODUCTIVE AND BE PROFITABLE FOR FARMERS

- Readily Available Low-Interest and Long-Term Credit Facilities
- Seeds, Fertilizers, Irrigation and Other Inputs
- Adequate Drying and Milling Capabilities
- Market Access
- Training and Capacity-Building
- Full support of the Department of Agriculture, local government units and the Department of Agrarian Reform as partners-for-change

2. JUST AND PROMPT COMPENSATION FOR LANDOWNERS

- Settlement of all previous land acquisitions as a confidence-building measure for the next wave of reformed lands
- Just and prompt payment to all landowners for their CARP-subjected land
- Fairness and transparency in resolving disputes on land valuation and ownership
- New law must clearly specify sources of funds for the next phase of CARP

3. TOTAL BAN ON FARM LAND CONVERSION

- <u>The current rice and food crises underscore the urgency of banning the conversion of all irrigated and irrigable land</u>
- Huge public funds have been wasted on farmlands irrigated but eventually converted to other uses



ORAS NA

para sa tunay na pagbabago at ganap na kalayaan para sa ating mga magsasaka!

For more information about the Liberal Party and its advocacies, visit the LP website at www.liberalparty.ph
You can also call or visit the LP Headquarters at 2F Matrinco Bldg. Chino Roces Ave. 1231 Makati City.
Telephone: (632) 893-7483 / 893-6304

PAID ADVT

Donate your own kidneys, DSWD chief tells DOH execs

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LINE UP YOUR own kidneys first.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral yesterday chided officials of the Department of Health for exempting eight Israelis from the moratorium on kidney transplants to foreigners.

Cabral expressed her dismay over the decision of the DOH National Transplant and Ethics Committee (NTEC) to allow the foreign patients to undergo transplantation, which was approved by the Philippine Board of Organ Donation and Transplantation (PBODT).

Altruism

"Assuming that altruism is the only reason for the PBODT and NTEC recommendations, may I suggest that it is but right that they each give one of their kidneys to these foreigners before they ask others to do so," Cabral said in a statement.

"Their good example should influence many others to do the same. Thus happening, the DOH should find it easy to get a host of affluent individuals, along with [poor people], to donate their kidneys, too," she said.

Cabral urged kidney transplant surgeons to donate their kidneys as well.

"Then, we shall have no problem providing kidneys to all Filipinos with renal failure who want a transplant [and] we may even be able to spare some for foreigners," she said.

Cabral issued the scathing statement as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Committee against Trafficking, which is mandated to protect the poor and disadvantaged and to ensure that the law against human trafficking is implemented.

She said Republic Act No. 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003) made selling and importing human organs by means of fraud, deception or abuse of power punishable by a prison term of at least 20 years plus stiff fines.

Usual victims

Filipinos in dire need of cash have been the usual victims of illegal kidney harvesting networks operating in various parts of the country. Most of the time, poor Filipinos are duped into selling their kidneys for meager sums.

Asia Against Child Trafficking, a nonprofit group advocating an absolute ban on kidney trade, earlier reported that Filipinos were the cheapest source of kidneys in the global black market for human organs, selling them for a measly $1,500.

According to Cabral, the NTEC composed of Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca, Dr. Victoria Edna Monzon, Dr. Angelito Alvea and Dr. Manuel Perez "all flouted" their support for President Macapagal-Arroyo's policy of having no living Filipino kidney donors for foreigners.

"Then the committee contradicted itself by recommending the "exemption" of eight Israelis for "humanitarian reasons," she said.

Despite strong objections from the Philippine Society of Nephrology, the PBODT approved the NTEC recommendation on May 13 during a meeting chaired by Health Secretary Francisco Duque.

Cabral also pointed out that the Israeli patients could continue living productive lives on dialysis, just like many Filipino patients.

China holds 3-minute silence





A story of love in the ruins

IN LINE WITH THE THREE-DAY NATIONAL mourning in mainland China, a condolence book will be open at 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-4:30 p.m. from May 19 to 21 at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China at No. 1235 Acacia Road, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

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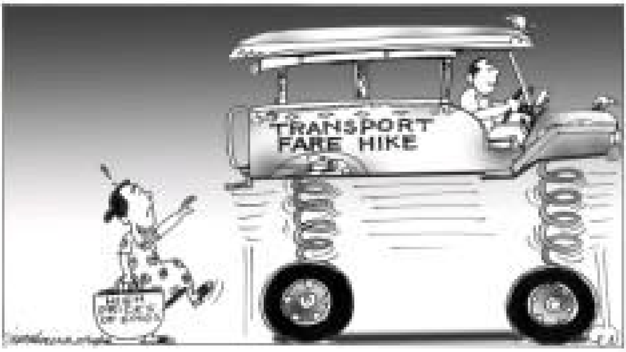


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Monsters with guns

EDITORIAL



Where vultures gather

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Impunity

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Razon should go get those beasts

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



The beauty of 'No'

YOUNG BLOOD

Michael Joseph B. Luistro

Surplus of airports amid food deficit

COMMENTARY

Ernesto M. Pernia

The Pope and the atheist

NEWSSTAND



John Nery

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

THEY SAID

Asean's inaction on Burma

The unpardonable crime

Administration 'foresight' led to failed rice auction

LETTERS

Why Jamby is questioning authenticity of late aunt's will

News to unblock the arteries: Highblood is back, finally



A CHILD joins a Bayan protest rally at the Meralco head office in Quezon City.

Columnist should have looked deeper into rates

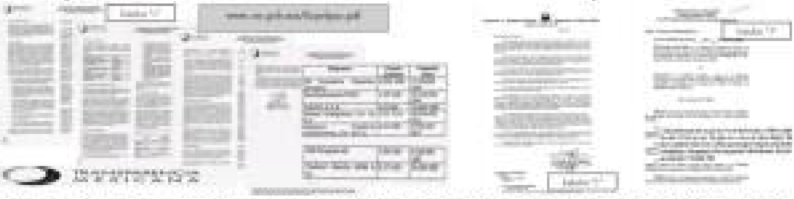
Amid rice crisis, Joma content to sow anarchy

Retired CHR chief an apologist for Arroyo gov't

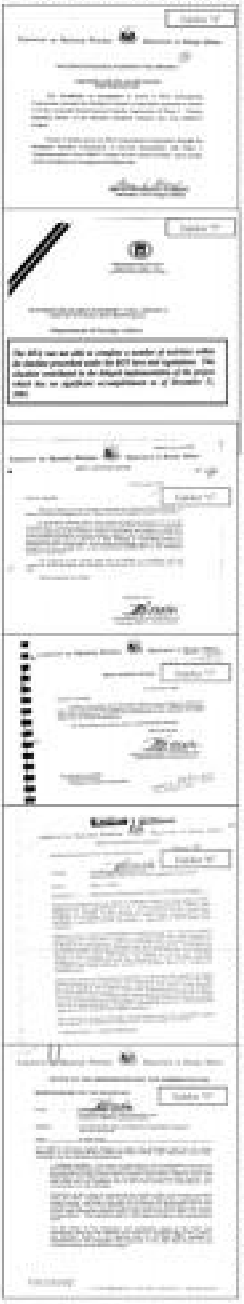
Dakay's error: Dignity, not sexual orientation, is real issue in Cebu rectal surgery scandal

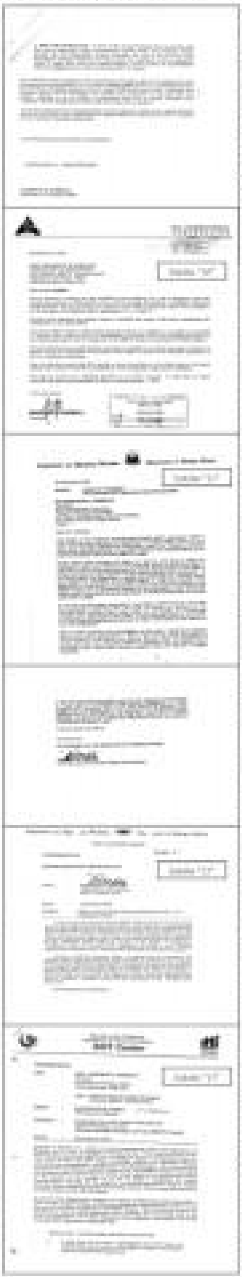
Excerpted from the Ombudsman Case filed by the COLLEGE EDITORS' GUILD OF THE PHILIPPINES against DFA Sec. Romulo and Asst. Sec. Lucenario

Overpriced Passport Laminates! Who Gets the P50 Pesos per laminate?



Billion Peso Passport Controversy! Why Use Public Funds for an Ongoing BOT Project?





'Cosme' death toll climbs to 15

By Gabriel Cardinoza and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—WHEN THE WIND BEGAN to blow and the rains fell hard on Saturday, Lilian Padilla, 53, knew instantly that it would be a stormy night.



STREETS in Baguio City are flooded at the height of Tropical Storm "Cosme."

NDCC figures

More victims, damage seen

Helping neighbors

Zambales, Benguet

Business as usual

Banahaw protesters close mine site

Reply to the open letter of Mr. Oscar Lopez

Dear Mr. Lopez:

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts on how to bring down retail electricity prices in the Philippines.

Indeed, we find your suggestion – that government should consider imposing a windfall tax on Shell and Occidental Petroleum, the Camago-Malampaya gas sellers – quite interesting. Considering that the selling price of natural gas is indexed to crude oil prices and that these supply contracts were signed in 1998 when crude oil was only at $15/barrel, the gas sellers are now wallowing in oodles of money since the oil price has gone up more than eight times. And we urged our policy makers to please look closely into this. The sooner the better.

<u>However, Mr. Lopez, you are skirting the whole issue. The issue being presented to you by the consumers is the mismanagement and utter lack of transparency of Meralco, the biggest distributor which controls about 75 percent of the electricity market in this country.</u>

We are appalled by the admission of Meralco officials during the recent JCPC hearing at the Senate that Meralco's own use of electricity worth P427 million is incorporated in what it reports as systems loss. Based on ERC records, Meralco's electricity consumption in 2007 was not 72 million kWh as alleged during that hearing but 77 million kWh. In fact this was 133.6 million kWh in 2005 and 81.6 million kWh in 2006.

From how we understand it, there are only two sources of systems loss. **One is technical loss, which refers to the electricity that is lost in the course of transmission and distribution.** An analogy would be the heat lost in a cup of freshly brewed coffee as it is poured from the coffee maker in the kitchen and served on the table in the dining room. ***We do not think that Meralco's own consumption would qualify as a technical loss.***

The second, of course, is pilferage. That is, outright theft by tampering meters, using jumpers and other mechanisms. And we understand that it is not only the households in squatter areas but even those in affluent communities and business enterprises are also guilty of this. *Is Meralco's own electricity consumption classified under this category then?*

Why should Meralco resort to such practice of incorporating its own electric consumption as part of its systems loss?

This cost can easily be included as part of its operating expenses, an integral factor in the rate setting mechanism. Then, we as consumers, could better be assured it is only the cost of Meralco's electricity consumption – and not those of its subsidiaries and affiliates in the Lopez empire – that is being passed on for the Filipino consumer to shoulder. Isn't it a more transparent way of treating such operating cost?

That is why, Mr. Lopez, we are saying that while some of the suggestions you espoused in your open letter are worth considering, you are entirely missing the point.

We just want to be assured that the transactions of Meralco with other companies in your empire are done at arms length and in a transparent manner. Because we know that many of your companies are heavily dependent on Meralco as the main market for their products and services.

Of course, the most prominent of these companies is First Gen, which operates the 1000MW natural gas fired Santa Rita and 500MW San Lorenzo power plants. These plants sell all of their electricity production to Meralco.

Congressman Luis Villafuerte in a privilege speech on May 14 exposed Santa Rita's reported ghost deliveries starting June 2000 until December 2002 to Meralco worth P12.99 billion, the cost of which was passed on to Meralco's customers.

You see, Mr. Lopez, without a consistent policy on transparency, ghosts from the past will continue to resurrect and haunt you.

Congressman Villafuerte is right when he said that this is one of the evils of cross-ownership between a public utility power distributor and a power generator. Indeed the Electric Power Industry Reform Act should be amended and stricter rules designed to restrict and regulate cross-ownership between power generators such as First Gas and power distributors such as Meralco must be adopted.

And by the way, while we may agree with your suggestion of looking into the possibility of imposing windfall taxes on the gas sellers, we are also aware that you made this suggestion mainly because First Gen, the biggest contributor in terms of profits in your empire, will also gain from it. First Gen represents over 80% of First Philippine Holdings business.

Then, there is the Philippine Electric Group and General Electric Philippines Meter and Instrument Company, Inc. which supplied P1.1 billion worth of transformers, meters and other equipment to Meralco.

Speaking of meters, we noticed from Meralco's 2007 audited financial statement that it booked a liability "Customers' deposits – net of current portion" worth P21.4 billion.

A closer look into the notes that accompanied the financial statement explained that under Magna Carta for Residential Customers and its guidelines, ***residential customers are now exempt from the payment of meter deposits.*** And under the Distribution Services and Open Access Rules (DSOAR), ***the non-residential customers are also exempt from the payment of meter deposits.***

In addition, the Magna Carta and DSOAR required that **interests be paid on the billing deposits that have been collected from Meralco customers. We as your customers have not received any.**

And let us not forget that Meralco has yet to complete the P30 billion refund that was mandated by the Supreme Court after Meralco was found to have overcharged the Filipino consumers for almost 10 years, starting February 1994 to April 2003. Based on Meralco's 2007 financial statement, the balance of the refund, inclusive of the present value effect, as of December 31, 2007 is still P14.4 billion.

You see, Mr. Lopez, the Filipino consumer is one of Meralco's biggest creditors, even bigger than your bankers, whose interest bearing loans and other lendings, stands only at P14.2 billion as of end 2007. For the customer deposits and the corresponding interest as well as the balance of the refund alone, Meralco now owes its customers at least P35.8 billion.

You regularly report to your bankers, update them about the results of your operations and other developments, if only to assure them that Meralco is able to meet the benchmarks they have set.

We, as Meralco consumers and creditors, expect no less. ***The sooner the better.***

And we sincerely hope that with this exchange of thoughts, we, together with our policy makers and our legislators, will not be bullied by ABS CBN, DZMM and ANC, whose management your family's own private company, Lopez Inc., fully controls.

Very truly yours,

David L. Diwa
President, National Labor Union (NLU)
General Secretary, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa sa Pilipinas (KPMP)

Central Mindanao peaceful despite Malaysian pullout

Rebels storm Davao jail, seize 11 firearms

NEWSBRIEFS

COTABATO CITY

Pope names new Kidapawan bishop

DIGOS CITY

Plan for PNP, AFP training camp pushed

KIDAPAWAN CITY

NPA says it got 10 firearms during raid

ZAMBOANGA CITY

60 tons of mineral coal seized by cops

DAGUPAN CITY

3 ex-cops get life terms for murder

Manrique; 78

'Jueteng', 'masiao' compete with STL, says PCSO official



LAZATIN

42 families moved due to landslides

Villafuerte files resolution on Meralco refund

Esperon appointment under fire

'Militarizing peace process'



ESPERON

'Too much blood in his hands'

Cardinal Rosales says gay priests ...



ROSALES

Distinction

Fact-finding body

THE DAILY GOSPEL

NEWS

New rights panel head vows to reopen Jonas probe

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NEW HEAD OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN rights (CHR) yesterday said she would push for the reopening of the case of missing activist Jonas Burgos.



Rights groups decry latest disappearance

RP to seek new probe of rape case

METRO plus

Link eyed in Paco, Cabuyao bank rob cases

Police say bullets could be from same guns used in 2 incidents

By Allison W. Lopez

THE ROBBERY GROUP THAT KILLED A BUSINESSMAN IN PACO, Manila recently could be the same gang behind the killing of nine bank employees and a depositor's representative in Cabuyao, Laguna province on Friday.

The Manila Police District advanced this theory yesterday based on the firearms used in both incidents and the brazenness of the attacks.



NO TO CRIME A boy gives a snappy salute to Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon who was giving away anticrime stickers to motorists yesterday at the Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

Chief Insp. Dionisindo Arevalo Jr., head of the MPD homicide section, said he requested the Scene of the Crime Operatives division to do a cross-matching of the spent .45 caliber shells found in both crime scenes. The two incidents occurred four days apart. The cross-matching, Arevalo said, would determine if the shells came from the same guns.

On May 12, robbers killed in Paco lawyer-businessman Alfred Uy, who had just withdrawn P1 million from Banco de Oro, and responding Manila policemen Francisco Ivel and Jose Samas.

Four days later, armed robbers shot dead nine people, mostly employees, at the Rizal Commercial and Banking Corporation in Cabuyao. A 10th victim expired Saturday in a Laguna hospital.

Arevalo said two suspects in the Manila incident were members of the notorious "Rose gang." They were identified by three witnesses.

Former Philippine Army corporal Ronaldo Baron and Ethelred Mendoza alias Gilbert Collado were identified from police pictures. They were previously arrested and charged for a string of robberies in foreign exchange shops in Manila.

Baron was reportedly one of three men involved in the shootout with Ivel and Samas, while Collado allegedly drove the motorcycle as they fled from the scene. "We knew about the suspects' involvement from the first day of investigation but we did not divulge it to the media because we wanted to catch them. We are still doing follow-up operations," said Arevalo.

The homicide chief said the suspects could have switched from preying on forex shops to banks because their old modus operandi was already known.

Meanwhile, National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring ordered the agency's district offices in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Quezon provinces to assist Task Force RCBC. The NBI said they also dismissed the testimonies of two "witnesses" because of conflicting statements. "They're probably just after the P2 million reward in exchange for vital information," he said.



Manila RTC to resume Jaylo hearings

'Hulidap' cop nabbed in Pasay City; more victims surface

Companions

METRO BRIEFS

No registration, no entry for trucks

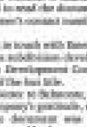
Body of drowning victim found in Manila

DID YOU KNOW

QC pays tribute to City Hall employee for honest deed

Criminals leave tell-tale signs

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



‘Revenge’ suicide bombing kills 13 in Pakistan

Antiforeigner violence rages in S. Africa



TRASH PROTEST

Bin Laden calls on Muslims to lift Gaza Strip blockade

Malaysia PM in danger as Mahathir quits party



BADAWI



MAHATHIR

Pressure on Badawi

Party split

The WORLD

Burma ignores cyclone ruin to prepare for vote

RANGOON—"THEY treat us like we're not even human," fumed Rangoon (Yangon) taxi driver Ko Myo, after Burma (Myanmar) authorities knocked on his door to remind him to vote this coming Saturday.

[illegible]



A YOUNG victim of Cyclone "Nargis" stands in line to receive donated goods from a local donor at a monastery outside Burma's capital of Rangoon, on May 19.

[illegible]

AFP

US sniper in Iraq used Koran for target practice

BAGHDAD—AN AMERICAN sniper was removed from Iraq after he used a copy of the Koran for target practice, the military said [illegible]

[illegible]

AFP

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

DEPUTATION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION, NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION, AND THE LOCAL ELECTRIFICATION COOPERATIVES IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 11, 2008 ELECTION OF REGIONAL OFFICIALS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM).

Promulgated: 16 May 2008

RESOLUTION NO. 8480

[illegible]

SO ORDERED.

N. Zealand investigates immigration service

WELLINGTON—THE New Zealand government Monday ordered an inquiry into its immigration service following allegations of corruption and the resignation of its chief.

[illegible]

AFP

80 days to the 29th Summer Olympics

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Associate Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SUBIC OPEN

Sadorra, Gonzales still clean

By Roy Luarca

SUBIC—PLAYING ONLINE GAMES WORKED WONders for Julio Catalino Sadorra Sunday night.



GM YURIY Kuzubov (right) of Ukraine and supervising arbiter Peter Long make the ceremonial moves in the 2008 Subic Open International chess championship on Saturday.

Roach vows to monitor Pacman diet

By Roy Luarca

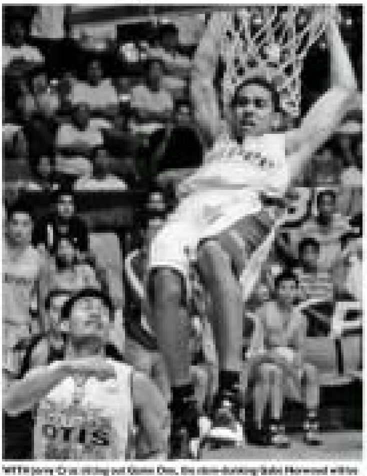
MANNY PACQUIAO CAN NO LONGER EAT as he pleases on the eve of his showdown with David Diaz.

Hapee to miss injured Cruz in Game 1 of championship

By Jasmine W. Payo

INJURED HAPEE STALWART JERVY CRUZ WILL REMAIN OUT OF COMMISSION when the Complete Protectors seek revenge against defending champion Harbour Centre in their second straight PBL title showdown tomorrow.

[illegible]



WITH Jervy Cruz sitting out Game One, the slam-dunking Gabe Norwood will be carrying a heavier load against Harbour Centre.

FILOIL HOOPS

Knights ambush Maroons

By Jasmine W. Payo

[illegible]

SPORTSWATCH

PTCC kickoff race slated

[illegible]

USC teams top FBL

[illegible]

UE holds tryouts

[illegible]

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE SEMIFINALS

Lady Stags battle Lady Pirates

[illegible]

RP wushu squad finishes 4th in Macau

[illegible]

Siso bags 3 age group tennis titles

[illegible]

World Slasher kicks off

[illegible]

Villamor cops Hillsborough title

[illegible]



DEFENDING champion Jonathan Tiu is back on the title campaign trail following his big win recently in the fifth leg of the 2008 San Mig Coffee Drag Racing Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit Drag Strip.

Tiu tops 5th San Mig drag race leg

[illegible]

PBA opens door to Filipino-foreign rookies next season

Banal targets WBA crown



Close PSC watch on Olympic bets



Guiao hangs on sans superstars

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

Smart summer sports up at SM Bacoor



SPORTS



Celtics outlast Cavs

Boston vs Detroit for Eastern crown

LEBRON James tries to get off a shot against Paul Pierce.



NADAL: Ready for Paris

Nadal finally tops Hamburg at Federer's expense

Roach vows...

BUSINESS

Gov't posts budget surplus of ₱25.8B

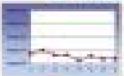
But analyst says performance no cause for optimism

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT POSTED A BUDGET SURplus of ₱25.8 billion in April, recovering from a deficit the previous month, as the surge in consumer prices led to higher collection of value-added tax.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Gov't cuts subsidies to GOCCs /B3
- Customs taps 2 import inspection firms /B7
- Japan readies rice shipment to RP /B8

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower



Lender of last resort tightens watch on securities

Dividend season ending

Mr. Bearbull

Bos Nalbare

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Gov't cuts subsidies to state-owned companies

RLC, Phinma to develop Mindanao plot

Mr. Bearbull



PSALM to bid out 620-MW Limay plant

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. has started the bidding process for the 620-megawatt Limay combined-cycle power plant in Bataan. The plant will be auctioned off in mid-July.

In an invitation to bid published in newspapers, PSALM said interested bidders had until 5 p.m. on May 30 to submit their letters of intent to bid. They also have to execute a confidentiality agreement and undertaking, as well as remit to PSALM a nonrefundable fee of $2,000 on or before that date.

The bidding package will be distributed from May 19 to 30.

PSALM said potential bidders could conduct due diligence on the Limay plant from May 22 to July 2008.

A pre-bidding conference would be held on June 6 to iron out all bidding concerns prior to the July 30 deadline for the submission of the bids.

The Limay plant, commissioned in 1993, has two 310-MW modules. One composed of three 70-MW gas turbines and another made up of a 120-MW steam turbine. This means that the plant generates electricity in two ways.

A combination of bunker and diesel fuel is primarily used to power the plant's gas turbines. The plant then uses the exhaust gas heat from the gas turbines to boil water inside the boiler, which, in turn, produces steam to drive the steam turbines.

PSALM's privatization timetable for 2008 covers 11 plants, some of them to be sold in bundles.

The first to be offered this year is the decommissioned 225-MW Bataan Thermal Plant, which would be auctioned off this month.

This being a retired power plant, however, would not be included in the computation of PSALM's 70 percent privatization target for the year.

First to count toward the target will be the 747.5-MW Tiwi-Makban facilities in Albay, Laguna and Batangas, which have been scheduled for auction in late June. Also to be sold in June is the Amlan hydropower plant.

The 146.5-MW Panay diesel-fired power plant, previously bundled with the 192.5-MW Palinpinon geothermal facility, will now be packaged with the 22-MW Bohol diesel-fired power plant and sold in July.

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

AMENDED PETITION

Linking of anticorruption efforts, CSR activities urged

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BUSINESS LEADERS YESTERDAY pushed for the linking of corporate social responsibility activities with anticorruption efforts as companies prepare "a more focused" approach in this year's CSR Conference organized by the League of Corporate Foundations.

Daniel L. Batungan, chair of SGV & Co., said during the launching of CSR Expo 2008 that companies and foundations should take positive steps to address the problem of corruption through CSR.

"If you think about it, we would not have to make so much as CSR effort if not for corruption in government," said Batungan, who is also vice chair of the Coalition Against Corruption.

Others present agreed with Batungan's suggestion, including officials from members of the Management Association of the Philippines, People Management Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Ayala group, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines and Asosasyon Pilipino Franchisers.

Roberto R. Calingo, chair of the League of Corporate Foundations, said this year's CSR expo would stress the need to sustain CSR efforts and integrate them in companies' business strategy aside from responding to societal ills.

System to deal with bouncing checks in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES MAY SOON SEE AN END to the era of bouncing checks and long days of waiting time for clearing checks with the shift to a globally accepted interbank payment system that will allow depositors/payees to get their cash immediately.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also expects to trim unnecessary expenses by a hefty P3 billion a year with the use of the real time gross settlement (RTGS) system, which deals over transactions worth P5 million and above, or about two-thirds of the banking system's outward clearing items.

At present, checks presented by banks for clearing are settled by the BSP on the same day. But the system permits deferral of settlement in the clearing balances, making the funds available for use by the depositor-payees only on the third banking day for checks issued within Metro Manila, or seven banking days for out-of-town checks.

The BSP earlier uncovered the rampant practice among banks of using the idle funds before paying their clients.

The banks usually invested the funds in the central bank's own instruments, such as the high-yielding special deposit accounts (SDAs), the BSP added.

The new system will effectively put a stop to this practice.

Also, BSP Assistant Governor Rene Cataran cited the numerous advantages in adopting the RTGS system.

"First is the real-time and immediate settlement of payments—payees will get funds immediately within minutes from application and approval of the sending bank," Cataran said. "Second, payments are irrevocable and final. We won't see bouncing checks because ... once payment is finally made, there's no chance for reversal. It also eliminates the settlement, credit and liquidity risks as far as these checks are concerned."

But he said the Chamber of Thrift Banks had submitted a position paper opposing the new system, citing difficulties in reconfiguring their systems.



Attack of the clowns

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III



Lender of last resort tightens watch . . .

Gov't posts budget . . .

Customs taps 2 foreign import inspection firms

Splash Q1 profit up 14%

Business to shoulder cost



Alliance Tuna buys cannery in Indonesia

Malaysian firm gets control of retired plant

Lack of experts





BUSINESS

Japan readies rice shipment to RP

By Amy R. Remo

JAPAN IS READY TO SHIP TO THE PHILIPPINES 50,000 metric tons of rice in time for the lean months, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said yesterday.

Yap said on the sidelines of a forum in Manila that the shipment, which might arrive by the third quarter of the year, would "fit well with our buffer stocking plan."

Yap said he had been informed by Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon that Japan had sent a letter confirming the supply of 50,000 MT of rice.

The volume, however, was lower than the 60,000 MT that Japan had initially pledged. Yap declined to cite reasons for the smaller shipment.

Yap earlier said the Philippines planned to meet its target to import 2.1 million MT of rice through alternative modes of procurement, deviating from the normal open tenders conducted by the National Food Authority.

Of this volume, the "critical" 1.713 million MT, required to fill in the shortfall this year, was already contracted through open tenders as of April.

Private purchases would be set aside to cover the lean production months of September to December.

The agriculture chief had also said that the rice from Japan would be acquired using a low-interest loan, also from Japan.

He added that the NFA was working on the deal and terms of shipment and that the rice would be shipped as soon as the details have been worked out.

"We're still looking into Republic Act 9184 and crafting an executive agreement with Japan to take care of this transaction. We're hoping to wrap this deal soon, it could be a matter of weeks," Yap said.

Lack of experts in agri scored

DUMAGUETE-BASED SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY and AgriNurture Inc. (ANI) have partnered to help increase the ranks of agriculture professionals in the Philippines.

In a statement, Silliman president Ben Malayang III said the lack of agriculture professionals in the country has contributed to the "weakening agricultural backbone."

Malayang noted that as the Philippines loses its agricultural land area through industrial and residential land conversion, it needed to develop more "practical and competent agriculture professionals."

"We need to have more agriculture professionals who are creative enough to produce more food with less land, and who are able to make use of our vast sea area to support the protein and food requirements of the people," he said.

He thus urged the private sector to collaborate and support professional development in the fields of agronomy and other related agriculture courses.

"State universities are doing their best, but they would not be enough to fill the large need for agriculture professionals to secure our nation's food supply. Private sector institutions like Silliman and ANI must contribute to the effort," he explained.

To help in this program, ANI, a leading exporter of fresh, processed and frozen foods in the country, said it would give an initial 20 scholarship slots for those un-

LACK B7



LifeStyle



THE Lobby of Asian Hospital and Medical Center

Hospitals are thinking lifestyle more and more

Tetta Ortiz-Matera, near-perfection at 43

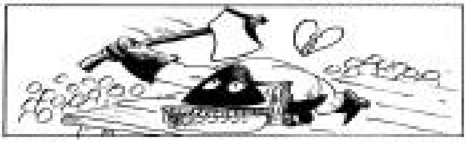
The supermodel of the '80s treats stress as an outsider



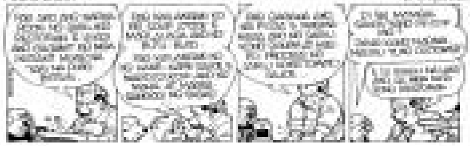
A. LIPIN







PUGAD BABOY





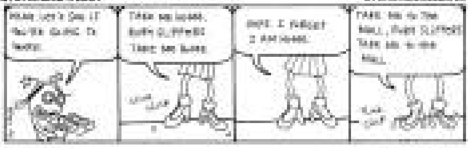
GARFIELD

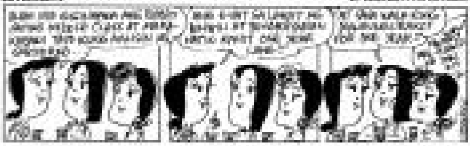




BABY BLUES

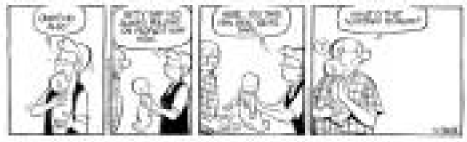




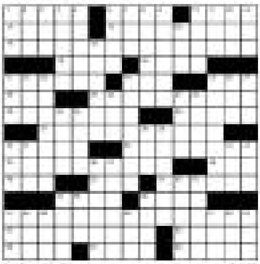


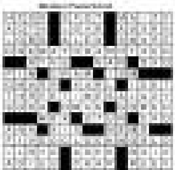


BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	4		7		1		6	
1		2						7
			2				3	
3						2		1
			1		4			
9		7						5
	9				2			
4						7		6
	7		8		5		4	

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

Tetta Ortiz-Matera near-perfection at 43





Sale of Lanelle Abueva-Fernando mugs to benefit cancer patients

Are you living with parasites?

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino





Trip to Poland full of surprises

INNER AWARENESS



Jaime T. Licauco

ESP seminar

Soulmates, Karma

Books in Polish

Hospitals are thinking . . .

Spa and chapel





ENTRANCE to the spa's 100-year-old Thai teakwood house





AWESOME entrance to the Royal Pavilion in the Royal Garden





Wet and wonderful wellness trip to Chiang Mai



HEALTHY salad at the spa's restaurant



ENTRANCE of the Royal Floral Expo 2006 Garden



YOUNG Buddhists at Wat Phra That Doi Suthep Temple

Without Batting an Eyelash



Maurice Arcache

It was an amazing experience being in heavenly Chiang Mai during Thailand's New Year celebration, known as the Songkran Festival

Breathtaking home



EYE-CATCHING souvenirs at the temple in Doi Suthep



MAIN room of the Royal Pavilion showing Lanna culture at the Ratchaphruek

Getting wet







ENTERTAINMENT



Kapuso snub saddens 'Idol' Mau



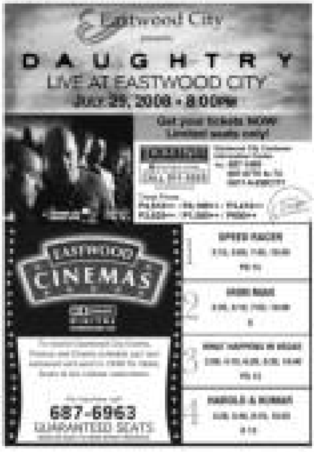
But she doesn't think she's about to be erased from RP pop history

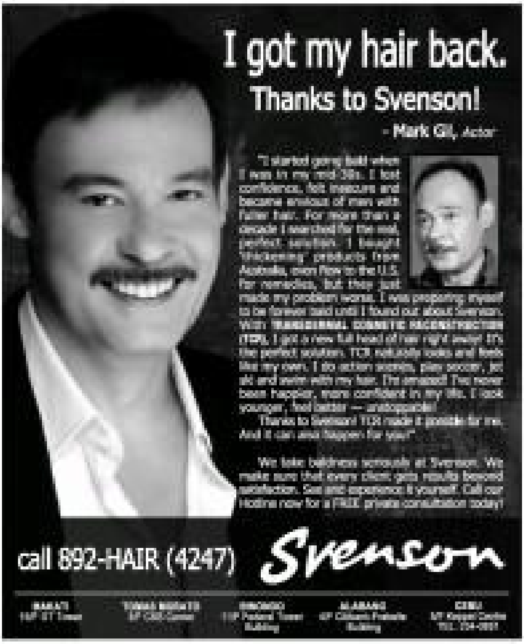
Precious Quigaman not fired from 'Wowowee'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

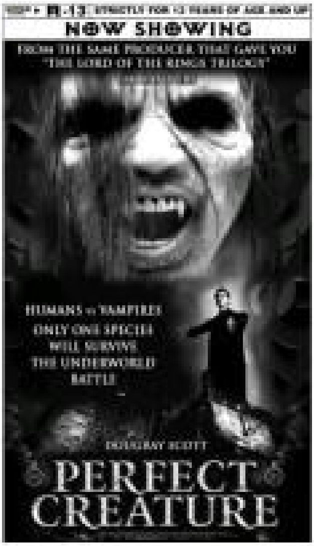






DID YOU KNOW...

'Fahrenheit' follow-up



Believable casting is everything

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

The key is suspension of disbelief

[illegible]

Recreating reality

[illegible]

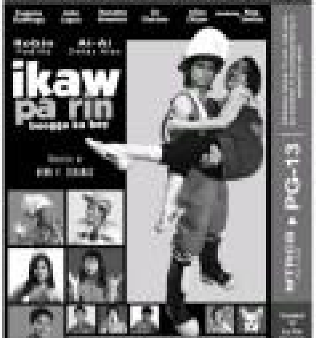
Credible portrayal

[illegible]

Precious...

Winning party

[illegible]



CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 SPEED RACER
2 IRON MAN
3 HAROLD & KUMAR
4 PERFECT CREATURE
5 IKAW PA RIN
6 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
7 MEGA SNAKE
8 IndieSine: PI7ONG TAGPO
9 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
10 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM



ERMITA

1 PERFECT CREATURE
2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
3 MEGA SNAKE
4 SPEED RACER
5 IKAW PA RIN
6 IRON MAN
7 HAROLD & KUMAR
8 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
9 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

METRO EAST

1 PERFECT CREATURE
2 MEGA SNAKE
3 IKAW PA RIN
4 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
5 SPEED RACER
6 IRON MAN
7 HAROLD & KUMAR
8 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

NOVALICHES

1 MEGA SNAKE
2 SPEED RACER
3 IRON MAN
4 IKAW PA RIN / PERFECT CREATURE

PIONEER

1 HAROLD & KUMAR
2 IRON MAN
3 IKAW PA RIN
4 PERFECT CREATURE



"PI7ONG TAGPO"
is about life's journey,
7 different lives,
7 struggles, 7 decisions,
7 realities... all in 7 tales.

Showing exclusively at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD IndieSine

May 14 to 20

STA. ROSA

1 IRON MAN
2 IKAW PA RIN
3 SPEED RACER
4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

LIPA

1 IRON MAN
2 IKAW PA RIN
3 SPEED RACER
4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS

DASMARIÑAS

1 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
2 IRON MAN
3 SPEED RACER
4 IKAW PA RIN

IMUS

1 IKAW PA RIN
2 IRON MAN
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 SPEED RACER

ANGELES

1 IKAW PA RIN
2 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
3 SPEED RACER
4 IKAW PA RIN

STARMILLS

1 ASYLUM
2 IKAW PA RIN
3 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
5 IRON MAN
6 SPEED RACER

BACOLOD

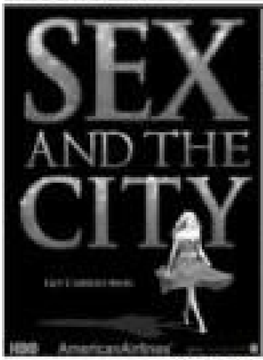
1 SUPERHERO MOVIE
2 IRON MAN
3 IKAW PA RIN
4 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
5 STREET KINGS
6 SPEED RACER

ILOILO

1 STREET KINGS
2 IKAW PA RIN
3 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
4 IRON MAN
5 POSSESSED
6 SPEED RACER

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movietime — watch & win promo



WIN A TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY, USA!

Watch the movie at SM Cinema and you and a friend get a chance to fly Carrie-style to the fashionable New York City!

OPENS MAY 28

METRO MANILA

IMAX — THE PODIUM

SPEED RACER
Admission Price: P300

T-REX
Admission Price: P250

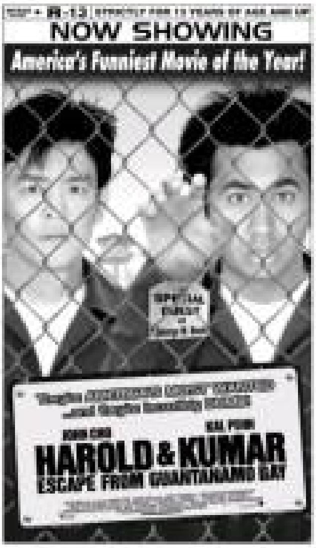
PREMIERE CINEMA
IKAW PA RIN
CENTERSTAGE
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM/ WHEN LOVE BEGINS
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
RESERVED

CINEMA 1

LUZON

VISAYAS · MINDANAO

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



KC talks about being in show biz

AS KC CONCEPCION'S STAR CONTINUES to shine brightly, it's hard to believe that she spent much of her childhood avoiding being in show business.

"It's a dance," KC says in an interview with Preview magazine (May issue). "Everything—fashion, acting, music—melds, and that's the beauty of what we in show biz do; we can do many things all at the same time."

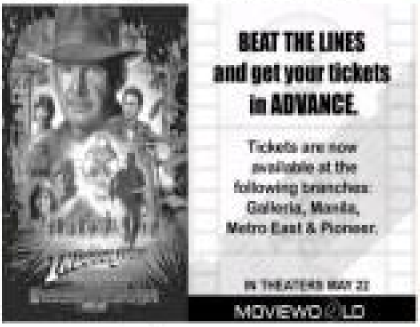
As KC concentrates on music and acting, she acknowledges that she could be doing a lot more, especially since she entered the biz to fill a creative need. "But it would be crazy!"

It seems her life is moving at break-neck speed—and it hasn't fazed her.

"I don't think people realize there's double the pressure for me, compared to others who've been in the industry for a long time and have learned the ropes here. In my case all eyes are on the work and if you mess up, you're dead," she says.

She is quick to add that her mom, Sharon Cuneta, has taught her a thing or two about being in the industry. "My mom reminds me that at the end of the day, it is work, and that you shouldn't drown in it."





This week in Hollywood

ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS during the week of May 18-24:

1990: Axl Rose of Guns N' Roses and Erin Everly, Don Everly's daughter, filed for divorce. They were married 27 days.

1998: The last episode of "Murphy Brown" aired on CBS.

1999: The movie "Star Wars: Episode One—The Phantom Menace" opened nationwide.

2000: Britney Spears' album "Oops!...I Did It Again" sold 1.3 million copies in its first week out, giving her the biggest first-week sales for a female artist.

2003: Ruben Studdard barely beat out Clay Aiken to win Fox's second "American Idol" competition.

2005: Tom Cruise leaped on a couch and pumped his fist to express his love for Katie Holmes during an appearance on "Oprah." AP

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema							
GLORIETTA 1	1 IRON MAN	2 SPEED RACER	3 PERFECT CREATURES	4 IKAW PA RIN BONGGA KA BOY!			
GLORIETTA 4	1 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	2 IKAW PA RIN	3 SPEED RACER	4 [illegible]	5 HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY	6 IRON MAN	7 WHEN LOVE BEGINS
GREENBELT 1	1 SPEED RACER	2 IRON MAN					
GREENBELT 3	1 SPEED RACER	2 IRON MAN	3 PERFECT CREATURE	4 HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY	5 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 SPEED RACER	2 IRON MAN	3 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	4 HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY	5 IKAW PA RIN BONGGA KA BOY!		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	2 IRON MAN	3 SPEED RACER	4 IKAW PA RIN BONGGA KA BOY!			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 SPEED RACER	2 HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY	3 [illegible]	4 IRON MAN	5 IKAW PA RIN BONGGA KA BOY!		
TRINOMA	1 WHEN LOVE BEGINS	2 WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS	3 HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY	4 [illegible]	5 IKAW PA RIN BONGGA KA BOY!	6 IRON MAN	7 SPEED RACER

AT THE MALLS

Mall	Event
Glorietta	[illegible]
Greenbelt	[illegible]
Alabang Town Center	[illegible]
Ayala Center Cebu	[illegible]
Market! Market!	[illegible]
Onstage	[illegible]
Ayala Museum	[illegible]
TriNoma	[illegible]





